(c) what steps Government propose to take to contain the rising trend in such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) 268 cases have been registered against public servants including officials of Nationalised Banks.

(b) All the cases are under investigation.

(c) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy viz. preventive, surveillance and detection and deterrent punitive action to combat corruption, and all offenders will be booked in accordance with law.

Vacancies of Judges and pending cases in various Courts

1077. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending at present in the Supreme Court and different High Court and the number of them are pending for more than ten years, what were these figures three years ago;

(b) the total number of vacancies of judges at present in the different High Courts, the State-wise figures thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to fill up them; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the number of pending cases in the last three years and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information furnished by the Registries of the Supreme Court and High Courts, the position has been indicated in the Annexure attached. (*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 41).

(b) The position has been indicated in the Annexure attached [*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 42] Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and is a continous process. Government make all possible efforts to ensure that vacancies of judges are filled in expeditiously.

(c) The steps taken during the last three years to reduce pendency in courts have been indicated in the Annexure attached. (*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 43). As a result of the steps taken the average rate of disposal per judge per year has generally increased.

Explosion in the HWP in Baroda

1078. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Heavy Water Plant at Baroda has been closed down recently following an explosion, if so, the details thereof and whether a similar explosion occurred in 1977;

(b) whether the Employees Union has represented to AEC and Government regarding safety conditions at the plant;

(c) whether an inquiry has been held on the incident and when will the report be submitted to Government;

(d) what steps have been taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents; and

(e) what are the capacities of the existing and planned HWPs and whether India is self sufficient in this res-